

Message

From: Cozad, David [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4A30A28BE6A74D3DA779BB7F7B34A876-COZAD, DAVID]
Sent: 7/9/2021 8:02:40 PM
To: Macy, Jim [jim.macy@nebraska.gov]
CC: Beringer, Mike [Beringer.Michael@epa.gov]; Davis, Michael [Davis.Michael@epa.gov]; Chu, Ed [Chu.Ed@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Mead Meeting Stories 7/8/21

Jim –

Just left you a voice mail on this. Our POCs to work with you on potential air monitoring are Mike Davis and Mike Beringer. If you have your folks reach out them, they can explore with you what's technically feasible and in what timeframe.

EX. 5 AWP / EX. 7(A)

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Call if you want to discuss –

Dave

From: Macy, Jim <jim.macy@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2021 9:20 AM
To: Cozad, David <Cozad.David@epa.gov>; Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Mead Meeting Stories 7/8/21

EX. 5 AWP / EX. 7(A)

Jim Macy, CLSSEGB Director | Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
402-471-3383 | P.O. Box 98922, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922
<http://dee.ne.gov>

From: Woita, Amanda <amanda.woita@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Felix, Carla <carla.felix@nebraska.gov>; Macy, Jim <jim.macy@nebraska.gov>; Valentine, Kara <kara.valentine@nebraska.gov>; Goans, Steve <steve.goans@nebraska.gov>; Stoner, Kevin J <kevin.j.stoner@nebraska.gov>; Buell, Thomas <thomas.buell@nebraska.gov>; Pracheil, Brad <brad.pracheil@nebraska.gov>; Kovar, Annette <Annette.Kovar@nebraska.gov>; Ugai, Susan <susan.ugai@nebraska.gov>
Cc: Case, Emily <Emily.Case@nebraska.gov>; Elmshaeuser, Karl <Karl.Elmshaeuser@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Re: Mead Meeting Stories 7/8/21

Mead Residents Say They Need Help Now (Nebraska Public Media)

Despite the AltEn plant shut-down earlier this year, Mead residents continue to be impacted by contaminated seed corn used in the ethanol plant, affecting their water supply. Senator Carol Blood and Mead residents spoke-out Thursday about the need for help now.

Residents of Mead shared their stories of how they have been affected by the plant. Some can't grow gardens anymore, fish in their pond, or drink their own tap water. Resident Charles McEvoy lives two miles away from the plant, west of Omaha, and describes the smell as a combination of dead rats and rotting grain.

"Even taking a shower in this water and doing our laundry, it could be exposing us to these chemicals all day," he said. We also have an 18-pound Rashon house dog who was having health problems. Her kidneys were full of kidney stones. She had surgery that removed over 60 stones from her, some over the size of a quarter."

Residents want to know if it's safe for them to live there anymore, the effects on their health, and when cleanup will start.

Dr. Eleanor Rogan with the University of Nebraska School of Public Health investigative team said they've been examining water samples and urge residents to fill out a health concerns survey. Next month, they'll start examining residents' urine and blood samples.

Senator Carol Blood said the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment and other state government agencies need to step up.

"Mead needs help. Not two years from now, not five years from now, not 10 years from now, we need help now. If Nebraska cannot bring hope and help to its own taxpayers to its own residents, then we are not doing the job that we were elected to do," she said. "There is no excuse for what has happened and how long it happened."

Former Senator Al Davis encourages residents to send letters to the attorney general and call their local, state, and federal representatives with their concerns about cleanup.

From: Felix, Carla <carla.felix@nebraska.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 7:39 AM

To: Macy, Jim <jim.macy@nebraska.gov>; Valentine, Kara <kara.valentine@nebraska.gov>; Goans, Steve <steve.goans@nebraska.gov>; Stoner, Kevin J <kevin.j.stoner@nebraska.gov>; Buell, Thomas <thomas.buell@nebraska.gov>; Pracheil, Brad <brad.pracheil@nebraska.gov>; Kovar, Annette <Annette.Kovar@nebraska.gov>; Ugai, Susan <susan.ugai@nebraska.gov>

Cc: Case, Emily <Emily.Case@nebraska.gov>; Woita, Amanda <amanda.woita@nebraska.gov>; Elmsxaeuser, Karl <Karl.Elmsxaeuser@nebraska.gov>

Subject: Mead Meeting Stories 7/8/21

[Fight over Alt-En plant near Mead heats up \(wowt.com\)](#)

This is an updated written version of the KETV story above which includes the statements from the Governor's office and NDEE:

Stan Keiser thinks people in Lincoln and Omaha should pay close attention to what happened to his pond in Saunders County.

"We was catching 20-inch fish here in 2014 but in 2016 everything died," Keiser said.

Advertisement

What he didn't realize was that about that time the AltEn Ethanol Plant, located about six miles away started using pesticide-treated corn in its production.

"Well, we thought it was algae kill and I wasn't smart enough to pull any water samples," Keiser said.

But in February, a leak sent 4 million gallons of contaminated water and waste into ditches and creeks, which was then followed by heavy rain in March that sent even more runoff into his pond.

"It stunk so bad at the time you couldn't believe it," Keiser said.

He got the water tested and it showed high levels of fungicides, insecticides and ammonia.

Keiser was told the pond was essentially dead.

"There is zero oxygen in there, none. (Which means) Nothing can grow there," Keiser said.

He said any overflow that comes out of his pond eventually ends up in the Platte River. Both the city of Lincoln and Omaha have water well fields nearby.

"Now if we get a 4-inch rain in Mead tomorrow all this will come down like gangbusters and all this contamination will run down the ditch," Keiser said.

On Thursday, Keiser joined dozens of other Mead residents to voice their frustration about why something wasn't done earlier, the clean-up and the lack of communication from state officials.

Especially why nearly 80,000 tons of contaminated wet cake byproduct is allowed to be on site.

"When are we going to haul this crap out of there and get rid of the problem? We know there's a problem and there it sits," said Mead resident John Vybiral.

Emily and Ray Loftus live less than a mile away from the plant.

They have two young children and continue to drink bottled water even though state testing showed their well was not contaminated.

"But any time it rains that can change. Anytime there's a flood that can change," Emily Loftus said.

She said both her children ages six and two have respiratory problems.

"When we bought this house we thought it was going to be a great house with two acres to run and play and breathe fresh country air. And now the question is, did we harm them? Is it safe when they are out bouncing on the trampoline? We don't know," Loftus said.

According to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy website, Clean Harbors, the contractor hired has prepared seven additional temporary water storage tanks bringing the total number to 10. The tanks will hold wastewater and treated water. Berms have been set up to contain runoff.

Groundwater monitoring in June showed one of its four stations showed detectable contamination.

But the chemical levels in Keiser pond indicate contamination may not be contained.

"Mead needs help. Not two years from now. Not five years from now. Not 10 years from now. We need help now," said state Sen. Carol Blood.

She was one of nine senators from Lincoln and Omaha that attended the meeting.

"Both Lincoln and Omaha should be really concerned about their waterways," Blood said.

She said she invited the governor, senators and three state agencies working on the cleanup to attend.

"Where is our governor? Why isn't Gov. Ricketts standing next to me?" Blood said.

Gov. Pete Ricketts' Director of Strategic Communications Taylor Gage said:

"The wellbeing of the people of Mead and the surrounding area is of the utmost importance. The State of Nebraska has taken significant actions to address AltEn, including filing a lawsuit, facilitating an initial cleanup plan backed by seed corn companies, and providing numerous updates to the public through the NDEE information portal. Invitations for Senator Blood's event today were extended to state agencies a single day ahead of time, providing very little courtesy or notice.

"The governor's office and state agencies will continue to provide updates at the appropriate time to the Legislature's committees of jurisdiction who are working on the AltEn response, including the Executive Committee and Natural Resources Committee. Senator Blood does not sit on either committee."

And a spokesperson for NDEE said, "NDEE takes its responsibility to protect public health and support good stewardship of the environment seriously. While NDEE has pending litigation against AltEn, the agency still continues to make public information readily available and easily understandable.

"NDEE makes all of its public records available on its records portal, where anyone can view the public documents related to the facility. The agency has made an additional effort to be transparent by creating its 'Information and Updates for AltEn near Mead, Nebraska' [webpage](#). There, NDEE provides regular updates on sample results, actions taking place on site, and the status of the AltEn Facility Response Group's Voluntary Cleanup Program application."

Keiser said he didn't want to get involved in the controversy, but felt he had to speak up.

"I'm concerned about people downstream. What's this going to do and how bad is this into the soil and how we are ever going to clean this up I do not know," Keiser said.